

Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Policy Committee on
Wildlife & Fisheries

February 7, 2013



NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

- Updates
 - Fisheries Division Update
 - Lake Sturgeon Season Update
 - Netting Regulations (FO-229) – for Director's action
 - Wildlife Division Update
 - EHD Update
 - Safari Club International
 - Next Steps for Wolf
 - Crossbow Deer Hunter Survey Report



Fisheries Division Update



Jim Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division
February 7, 2013





MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
FISHERIES DIVISION

MASTER ANGLER AWARD

17,772 Certificates since 2000

1,189 for 2012

Catch and Release

Multiple program changes for 2013

3 increases for length or weight

6 decreases for length or weight

Combined bullheads, crappie and musky

Dated this ____ day of _____, at Lansing, Michigan _____

CHIEF, FISHERIES DIVISION

Thank You

www.michigan.gov/fishing



2013 Lake Sturgeon Season Black Lake, Cheboygan County



Todd Grischke, Lake Huron Basin Coordinator
Fisheries Division
February 7, 2013



Lake sturgeon season highlights

- 2013 Harvest Limit: 6 Lake sturgeon
- Season opened: Saturday, Feb. 2, 8:00am
- Season ended: Monday, Feb. 4, 12:16pm



Lake sturgeon season highlights

- Total of 268 anglers registered
- 219 pre-registered Friday evening
- 35+ staff assigned to shanty “clusters”



Lake sturgeon season summary

- 6 fish harvested: 3 males, 3 females
- Size range: 39-66 inches (11-67 pounds)
- 3 fish had internal PIT tags (captured prev.)



Lake sturgeon season summary

- 6th (final) fish taken at 12:16pm
- Signal cannons fired/UAW siren at 12:17pm
- DNR Hotline updated at 12:20pm
- All anglers notified by 12:38pm
- DNR staff involved: FD, LED, WD
- Post season survey



Thank You

www.michigan.gov/dnr

Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors



Wildlife Division Update

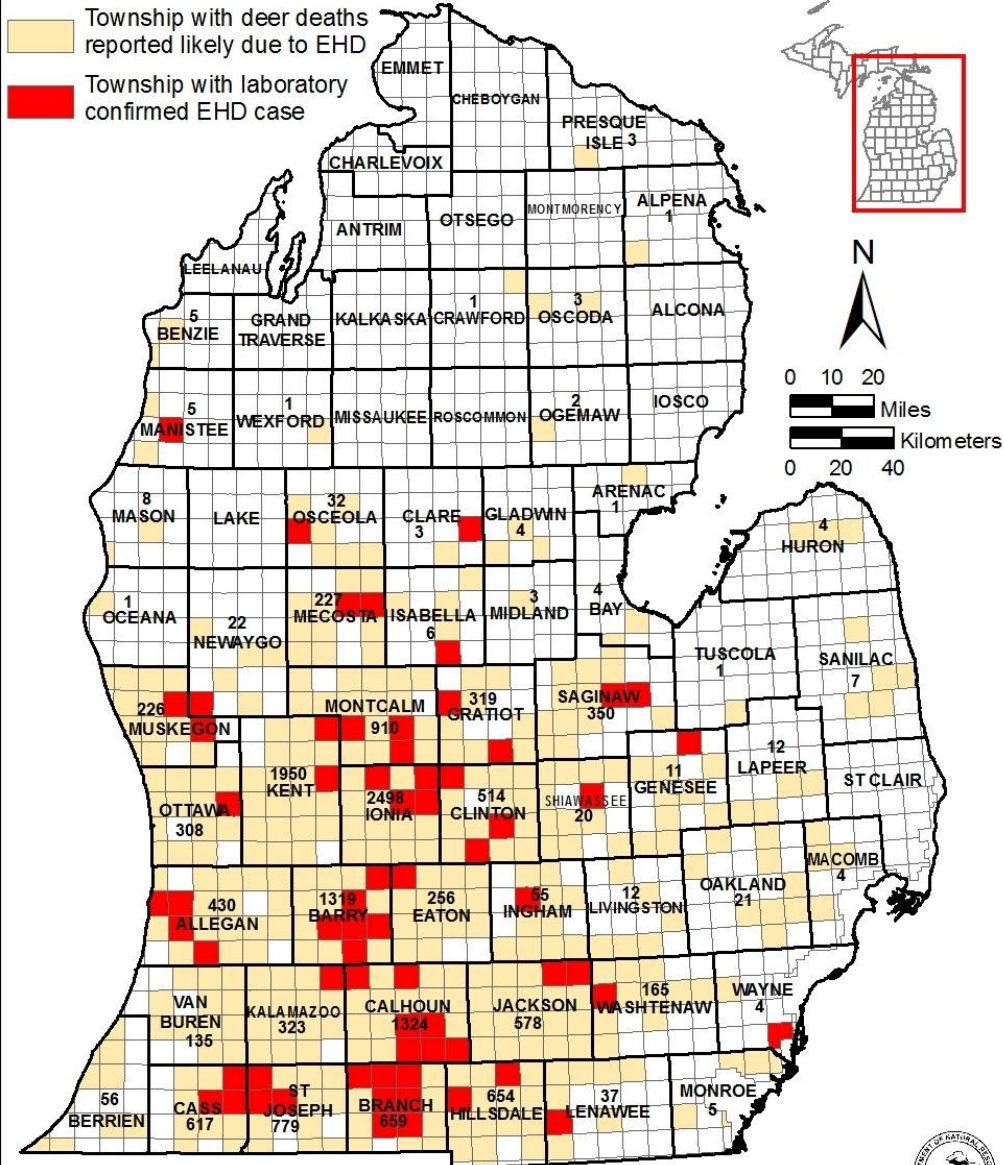


Russ Mason, Chief
Wildlife Division
February 7, 2013



Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) Surveillance in Michigan White-tailed Deer

-as of January 8, 2013-



- Allegan - 430
 - Alpena - 1
 - Arenac - 1
 - Barry - 1,319
 - Bay - 4
 - Benzie - 5
 - Berrien - 56
 - Branch - 659
 - Calhoun - 1,324
 - Cass - 617
 - Chippewa - 1*
 - Clare - 3
 - Clinton - 514
 - Crawford - 1
 - Eaton - 256
 - Genesee - 11
 - Gladwin - 4
 - Gratiot - 319
 - Hillsdale - 654
 - Huron - 4
 - Ingham - 55
 - Ionia - 2,498
 - Isabella - 6
 - Jackson - 578
 - Kalamazoo - 323
 - Kent - 1,950
 - Lapeer - 12
 - Lenawee - 37
 - Livingston - 12
 - Macomb - 4
 - Manistee - 5
 - Mason - 8
 - Mecosta - 227
 - Menominee - 2*
 - Midland - 3
 - Monroe - 5
 - Montcalm - 910
 - Muskegon - 226
 - Newaygo - 22
 - Oakland - 21
 - Oceana - 1
 - Ogemaw - 2
 - Osceola - 32
 - Oscoda - 3
 - Ottawa - 308
 - Presque Isle - 3
 - Saginaw - 350
 - Sanilac - 7
 - Shiawassee - 20
 - St. Joseph - 779
 - Tuscola - 1
 - Van Buren - 135
 - Washtenaw - 165
 - Wayne - 4
 - Wexford - 1
- Total 14,898**

*UP counties are not pictured.



Rev. Jan, 8, 2013 (MC)

14,898 white-tailed deer have been reported dead as possible EHD cases. Numbers within each county equal the number of reports for that county. For more information visit: www.michigan.gov/wdm - click on EHD

Safari Club International

- International Organization, Michigan Involvement Committee, and Michigan Chapters
 - Long-standing partner; long history of contributions to conservation
 - Serving as one of the sponsors of the Michigan Sportsman Against Hunger program
 - Providing funding for research projects such as our moose population assessment
 - Donating membership to Pure Michigan Hunt winners
 - Providing awards to hunters who respond to Wildlife Division surveys
- Possible funding for study regarding EHD in select areas of Michigan



Safari Club International

- 2012 Biologist of the Year
 - Brent Rudolph, deer and elk program leader
 - More than 12 years of professional experience in wildlife management
 - Policy development, public outreach and engagement, and research



Wolf Next Steps Update

- Referendum contrary to Proposal G
- DNR supportive of the Wolf Management Plan
- DNR has formed the Wolf Management Advisory Council (WMAC) per 2012 PA 520



Proceeding with Next Steps

January

- Tribal Engagement – Met with 1836 Consent Decree Tribal Biologists
- Begin Abundance Survey

February

- WMAC Meeting

March

- Public Engagement – Conduct series of meetings
- Tribal Consultation – Meetings with Michigan Tribes

April

- WMAC Meeting
- Complete Abundance Survey/Estimate
- Summarize depredation and conflict information to date

May/June

- Recommendation to NRC



Thank You

www.michigan.gov/wildlife



Crossbow Deer Hunter Survey



Brian Frawley, Research Biologist
Wildlife Division
February 7, 2013

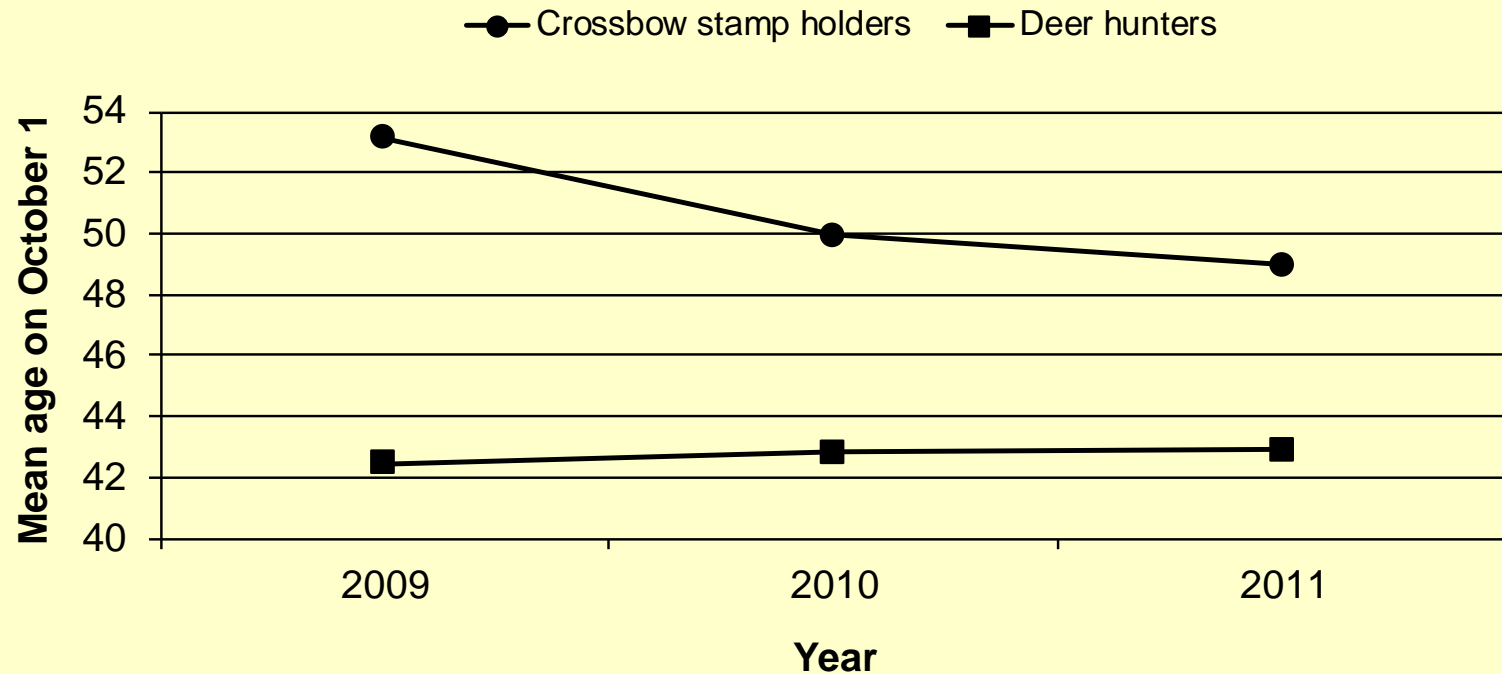


Crossbows allowed in the archery season beginning in 2009

- **This was done to expand hunting opportunities, retain existing hunters, and recruit new hunters.**
 - Deer hunter numbers declined 14% since 2001.
 - Average age of hunters increased from 41 to 43.
- **Crossbow hunters required to obtain a free stamp.**
 - 45,692 in 2009
 - 64,340 in 2010
 - 74,120 in 2011



The mean age of people obtaining a deer hunting license (all types) and a crossbow stamp in Michigan, 2009-2011



The mean age of deer hunting license buyers increased each year during 2009-2011; however, the mean age of people obtaining a crossbow stamp declined each year.



The number of deer hunters and deer harvested after crossbows were allowed in the archery season

- The number of people hunting deer during all deer hunting seasons in Michigan **declined** 7% and deer harvested **declined** 13% between 2008 and 2011.
- The number of hunters participating in the regular firearm season **declined** 10% and deer taken **declined** 27% during this same period.
- The number of people hunting in the archery season **increased** 13% and deer taken **increased** 24% between 2008 and 2011.



Did using crossbows for deer hunting affect hunting effort and harvest during the archery season

- 52% of crossbow hunters reported using crossbows **increased** how often they hunted in the archery season.
- 27% indicated using a crossbow had **increased** the number of deer they took in the archery season.

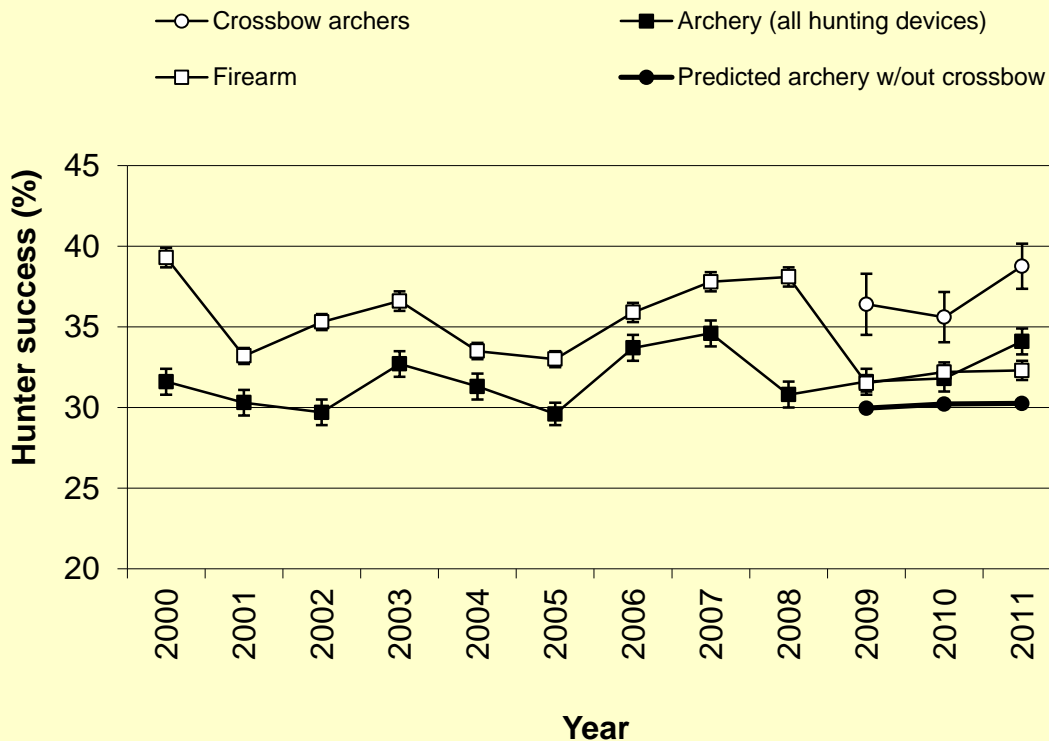


Crossbow use and hunting success of archers using crossbows

- The proportion of all archers using a crossbow **increased** from 19% in 2009 to 37% in 2011.
- Hunter success was similar each year (36-39%).



Archer hunting success



- Archers using a crossbow had **higher** hunting success than all archers combined.
- The addition of crossbow hunters in the archery season starting in 2009 likely **increased** overall hunting success among archers by 2-4 percentage points.



Crossbow hunter profile

- About 74% of the archers (71,305) using a crossbow in 2011 had previously hunted in the archery season (2006-2008).
- About 25% (24,438) of the crossbow hunters in 2011 had not hunted previously during the archery seasons (i.e., newly recruited archers).
- About 19% (18,731) of the archers using a crossbow in 2011 had never hunted with anything other than a firearm prior to the expanded use of crossbows.



View of crossbows

- About 88% of the archers using a crossbow in 2011 indicated their experience hunting with a crossbow met all or most of their expectations.
- About 65% of the hunters using a crossbow in 2011 indicated crossbows had either greatly improved or improved the quality of their hunt.



Some reasons why these hunters may have decided to use crossbows over other types of bows

- At least 77% of the crossbow hunters agreed:
 - Crossbows were **easier** to use
 - It took **less** time to become proficient with crossbows
 - They were **more** accurate with crossbows
 - They were **more** confident they could harvest a deer
- About 50% of crossbow hunters agreed:
 - Using crossbows allowed them to hunt **more** often
 - They would not hunt during the archery season if crossbows could not be used
 - They would not want to hunt in the archery season if crossbows could not be used
- Less than 30% of crossbow hunters stated they used crossbows because:
 - It was more satisfying
 - It was more challenging



Future use of crossbows

- About 96% of the crossbow hunters planned to use a crossbow to hunt in future archery seasons in Michigan.
- The number of crossbow stamp holders increased another 19% between 2011 and 2012.



Overview

- Crossbows appeared to be important for recruiting and retaining a number of new archers, increasing the recreational opportunity, and improving the quality of hunts for these archers.
- Crossbows met most or all of the archers' expectations, and nearly all crossbow hunters planned to use crossbows again.
- Crossbow hunters had higher hunting success.
- These expanded opportunities appear to have increased archer numbers in Michigan, although crossbow use did not reverse the longer-term decline in deer hunter numbers in all seasons combined.



Thank You

www.michigan.gov/dnr

